WHEELING, W. VA., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15. 1898.

# SHAFTER'S INNING.

Synopsis of his Report Detailing the Santiago Campaign.

A VERY PLAIN WRITTEN STATEMENT

regiments reached my headquarters from Siboney. I directed him to move

The fire was effective and the enemy

could be seen running away from the

vicinity of the block house. The artil-

lery fire from El Poso was soon return-

ed by the enemy's artillery. They evi

ed by the enemy's artillery. They evidently had the range of this hill and their first shells killed and wounded several men. As the Spaniards used smokeless powder it was very difficult to locate the position of their pieces, while, on the contrary, the smoke caused by our black powder, plainly indicated the position of our battery. "At this time the cavalry division, under General Summer, which was lying conceiled in the general vicinity of the El Pose house, was ordered forward with directions to cross the San Juan river and deploy to the right on the Santiago side, while Kent's division was to follow closely in its rear and deploy to the left.

Wheeler Takes Command.

"Cleneral Wheeler, the permanent

ommander of the cavalry division, who

had been ill, came forward during the

morning and later returned to duty and

rendered most gallant and efficient ser-

on Lieutenant faintry.
"While the formation just described "While the formation just described took

was taking place, General Kent took measures to hurry forward his rear

The Tenth and Second infantry were ordered to follow Wikoff's brigade, while the Twenty-first was sent on the right hand road to support the first brigade under General Hawkins, who had crossed the stream and formed on the right of the division. The second and Tenth Infantry, Colonel E. P. Pearson, commanding, moved forward in

Of the Operations of the American Army from the Time it Left Tampa until the Closure of Peace Negotiations with General Toral-Shafter Cites the Many Obstacles that had to be Overcome, Praises the Troops and Officers, and has no Complaint to Make Against the Government's Provisions-Sick and Wounded were well Cared for, and Soldiers well fed Under the Circumstances,

WASHINGTON. Sept. 14.—General Shafter's report of the campaign which terminated in the fall of Santiago has been made public. He briefly recounts the organization of the expedition and its embarkation and then devotes the main body of the report to the active operations about Santiago. General Shafter says the expedition was undertaken in compliance with telegraphic instructions of May 20 from headquarters of the army, in which it was stated: "Admiral Schley reports that two cruisers and two torpedo boats have been seen in the harbor of Santiago. Go with your force to capture garrison at Santiago and assist in capturing harbor and fleet."

The report gives in detail the troops assembled at Tampa. The cavalry was dismounted because of lack of transters of the army, in which it was stated "Admiral Schley reports that two

dismounted because of lack of transpertation for the animals and because was believed mounted cavalry could not operate efficiently near Santiago, This, General Shafter says, was found subsequently to be correct. After reciting the delay at Tampa, due to inadequate facilities, General Shafter says that on June 7 he received orders to sail without delay, but not with less than 10,000 men. After some of the transports had already reached the lower bay, telegraphic instructions were received from the secretary of war directing that the sailing of the expedition be delayed waiting further orders. This delay was occasioned by the navy reporting that a Spanish warship had been sighted in the Nicholas channel. The ships in the lower bay were immediately recalled. The expedition sailed on June 14 with \$15 officers and 16,072 men.

General Shafter briefly covers the trip and landing and his first meeting with General Garcia, adding:

"During the interview General Garcia offered the services of his troops, comr.ising about 4,000 men in the vicir.ly of Aserraderos and about 500 under General Castillo, at the little town of Cujababo, a few miles east of Dalquiri. I accepted his offer, impressing it upon him that I could exercise no military control over him except such as

"General Young's brigade passed beyound Lawton on the night of the 23d-24th, thus taking the advance, and on the morning of the latter date became engaged with a Spanish force entrenched in a strong position at La Guasima, a point on the Santiago road about three miles from Siboney. General Young's force consisted of one squadron of the First cavalry and two of the First United States volunteer cavalry, in all 944 officers and men. The enemy made an obstinate resistance, but were driven from the field with considerable loss. Our own loss was one officer and fifteen men killed; six officers and fortysix men wounded. General Wheeler, division commander, was present durice the engagement and reports that our troops officers and men fought with the greatest guliantry. This engagement ment gave us a well watered country farther to the front on which to encamp

until nearly two weeks after the army landed that it was possible to place on shore three days' supplies in excess of required for the dally consump

## Method of Atmela

On June 29, I reconnoitered the coun try about Santiago and made my plan The preparations were far from what I desired them to be, but we in a sickly climate; our supplies had to be brought forward by a narrow wagon road, which the rains might at any time render impassable; fear was extertained that a storm might drive vessels containing our stores to sea, eparating us from our base of and,lastly, it was reported that il Pando, with 8,000 reinforcements enemy, was an route from Manunder a destructive fire and agysneing a short distance, both divisions found in their front a wide bottom in which had been piaced a barbed wire entanglement and beyond which there was a high hill, along the crest of which the enemy was strongly posted. Nothing daunted, these gallant men pushed on to drive the enemy from his chosen bostition, both divisions losing heavily. In this assault, Colonel Hamilton, Jieltenants Smith and Shipp were killed and Colonel Carroll, Lieutenants Thayer and Myer, all in the cavairy, were wounded.

Praises Gen. Hawking,

"Great credit is due to Briffedier

"Great credit is due to Brigadier General H. S. Hawkins, who, placing

General H. S. Hawkins, who, placing himself between his regiments, urged them on by voice and burgle calls to the attack so brilliantly executed.

"In this fierce encounter, words fall to do justice to the galant regimental commanders and the herole men. for, while the generals indicated the formations and the points of attack, it was after all the intrepld bravery of the subordinate officers and men that planted our colors on the creat of Gan Juan hill and drove the enemy from his trenches and blockhouses, thus galning a position which sealed the fate of Santiago.

"In this action on the part of the field.

diago.

"In this action on the part of the field, most efficient service was rendered by Lieutenant John H. Parker, Thirteenti infaniry, and the gattling gus detachment under his command. The fishing continued at intervals until nighttail, but our men held resolutely to the Dositions gained at the cost of so much blood and toil.

"I am greatly indebted to General Wheeler, who, as previously stated, returned from the sick list to duty during the afternoon. His cheerfulness and aggressiveness made itself felt on this part of the battlefield and the information he furnished to me at various starges of the battlefield and the information he furnished to me at various starges of the battle proved to be most useful.

"My own health was impaired by over exertion in the sun and intense heat of the day before, which prevented me from participating as actively in the battle as I desired; but from a plash hill near my headquarters, I had a Seneral view of the battlefield, extendios from El Caney on the right to the left of our lines on San Juan hill."

End of the Battle. lines on San Juan hill."

"The cessation of firing about noor

regiments reached my meadquarters from Siboney. I directed him to move near El Caney, to give assistance if necessary. He did so and was put in position between Miles and Chaffee. The battle continued with varying intensity during most of the day and until the place was carried by assault about 4:30 p. m. As the Spaniards endeavored to retreat along the Santiago road. Ludlow's position enabled him to do very effective work and to practically cut off all retreat in that direction.

"After the battle of El Caney was well opened and the sound of the small arm fire caused us to believe that Lawton was driving the enemy before him. I directed Grimes' battery to open fire from the heights of El Poso on the San Juan blockhouse, which could be seen situated in the enemy's entrenchments extending along the crest of San Juan hill.

Effective Fire. on the third practically terminated the battle of Santiago; all that occurred on the third practically terminated the battle of Santiago; all that occurred after this time may properly be treated under the head of the sleese which followed. After deducting the detachments retained at Siboney and Dalquirt to protect those depois secure from attack, organizations held to protect our flanks, others acting as ecoria and guards to light batteries, the members of the hospital corps, guards left in charge of blanket rolls, which the incharge of blanket rolls, which the tense heat caused the men to cast aside before entering battle, orderlies, etc., it is doubtful if we had more chan 12,000 men on the firing line on July I, when the battle was fiercest and when the important and strong positions of El Caney and San Juan were captured. "A few Cubans assisted in the attack at El Caney and fought vallantly, but their numbers were too small to make risally change the strength; as indicated above. The enemy confronted in with numbers about equal to our own; they fought obstinately in strong entrenched positions and the results obtained clearly indicate the intrepld gallantry of the

fought obstinately in strong entrenched positions and the results obtained clearly indicate the intrepld gallantry of the company officers and men and the benefits derived from the careful training and instruction given in the company in recent years in rifle practice and other battle exercises. Our longes in these battles were twenty-two officers and 208 men killed and eighty-one officers and 1,203 men wounded; missing seventy-nine. The missing with few exceptions reported later."

1,200 men wounded; missing swentynine. The missing with few exceptions
reported later."

General Shafter says the arrival of
General Escance at Santiago was not
anticipated. He says: "General Garcia,
with between four and live thousand
Cubans, was intrusted with the duty
of watching for and intercepting the reinforcements expected. This, however,
he falled to do and Escarce passed into
the city along on my extreme right and
near the bay."

After speaking of Admiral Cervera's
sortie and the destruction of his fleet.
General Shafter says he again Called on
the Spanish commander to surrender.
He says: "Cn the same Jate I informed Admiral Sampson that if he
would force his way into the harbor the
city would surrender without any further sacrifice of life. Commodore Watton replied that Admiral Sampson was
temporarily absent, but that in his
(Watson's) opinion, the nayy should not
enter the harbor."

The strength of the enemy's bosition securing over him exception and as long as he red under me I would furnish him ions and ammunition."

Plan of Campaign.

After conferring with Admiral Sampa and General Garcia, the plan of compaign was outlined by General Shafter. The disembarkation was to compaign was outlined by General Shafter. The disembarkation was to compaign was outlined by General Shafter says: "These movements committed me to approaching Santiago from the east over a very marking and before there was any opportunity or return this fire. At this time General Shafter says: "These movements committed me to approaching Santiago from the east over a very marking along this row ments committed me to approaching Santiago from the east over a very marking and put in through Shoney and Sevilla, and put it through Shoney and Sevilla, and put it through Shoney and Sevilla, and put in through Shoney and Sevilla, and put in my judgment, was the only feasible plan, and subsequent information and plan, and subsequent."

Figure troops moved forward in compliance with the red of our held of denivering the city along on my extreme risky and near the bay."

After speaking of Admiral Corvera's sortic and the destruction of his feneral Shafter says he again called on the Spanish commander to surfement the surfement to making at the fermion of the spanish commander to surfement the spanish co

ted and thus hurried his arrival at the San Juan and the formation beyond that stream. A few hundred yards before reaching the San Juan, the road forks, a fact that was discovered by Lieutenant Colonel Derby, of my staff, who had approached well to the front in a war balloon. This information he furnished to the troops, resulting in Sumner moving on the right hand road, while Kent was enabled to utilize the road to the left.

Wheeler Takes Commans. forts towards securing a surrender and his reopening the engagement on the 10th, when the truce enged. On the 11th, the surrender was again demanded. "By this date, the sickness in the army was increasing very rapidly as a result of exposure in the trenches to the intense heat of the sun and the heavy rains. Moreover, the denrains. Moreover, the dews in Cubs are morning and later returned to duty and rendered most gallant and efficient service during the remainder of the day. "After crossing the stream, the cavalry moved to the right with a view of connecting with Lawton's left when he could come up, and with their left resting near the Santiago road. "In the meantime Kent's division, with the exception of two regiments of Hawkins brigade being thus uncovered, moved rapidly to the front from the forks previously mentioned in the road, utilizing both trails, but more especially the one to the left and, crossing the creek, formed for attack in the front of San Juan hill. During this formation, the second brigade suffered severely. While personally superintending this movement, its gallant commander, Col. Wikoff, was killed. The command of the brigade then devolved upod Lieutenant Colonel Worth, Thirteenth infantry, who was soon severely wounded, and next upon Lieutenant Colonel Liscum, Twenty-fourth infantry, who, five minutes later also fell under the terrible fire of the enemy and the command of the brigade then devolved upon Lieutenant Colonel Ewers, Ninth infantry. "While the formation Just described "While the formation Just described" "While the formation Just described." "While the formation Just described." "While the formation Just described." rains. Moreover, the dews in Cuba are almost equal to rains. The Weakness of the troops was becoming so apparent, I was anxious to bring the siege to an end, but in common with most of the officers of the army. I did not think an assault would be justifiable, especially if the enemy seemed to be acting in good faith in their preliminary proposition to surrender."

"July 12 I informed the spanish commander that Major General Miles, commander that Major General Miles, commander-in-chief of the American army, had just arrived in my camp and requested him to grant us a personal interview on the following day. He replied he would be pleased to meet us. The interview took place on the fath and I informed him his sufrender only could be considered and that as he was without hope of escape he had no right to continue the fight.

General Shafter then gives the details of the final surrender, his entry to the city and the raising of the American fins. In closing he eaps:

Natural Ob Ineles.

Natural Ob theles. "Before, closing my report, I wish to dwell upon the natural obstacles I had dwell upon the natural obstacles I had to encounter and which no foresight could have overcome or obviated. The rocky and precipious coast afforded no sheltered landing places, the loads were mere bridsh paths, the effect of the tropical sun and rains upon unacclimated troops was deadly and a dread of strange and unknown discases had its effect on the army.

"At Daiquiri the landing of the troops and stores was made at a signal wooden.

the right of the division. The second and Tenth infantly, Colonel E. P. Pearson, commanding, moved forward in good order on the left of the division, passed over a green knoll and drove the enemy back toward his trenches.

"After completing their formation in extent. At Siboney the landing was

# DOES IT MEAN MORE CARNAGE?

Italy Declares that her Diplomatic Relations with the United States of Colombia are Ended.

INTERRUPTED" AND "ENDED" LIES A QUARREL

ROME. Sept. 14.—Italy, it is announced, declares that her diplomatic rela-ns with the republic of Colombia are ended, Colombia refusing to recognize the British minister as the Italian representative during the latter's absence.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16 -- A dispatch bearing on the diplomatic relations of Italy and Colombia has been received by Senor Rengifo, the charge d'affaires of the latter country here. It is rather brief, simply containing the statement by Minister of Foreign Affairs Paul that "diplomatic relations with Italy have been declared interrupted,"

It is pointed out that there is a slight difference in the wording of the dispatch from Colombia and that from Rome, the former saying that the relations were "interrupted"; the latter says they have been "ended."

Senor Rengifo has no reasons to suggest for the interruption of relations between the two countries, and in the absence of fuller information he declines to make any comment upon the reports. He has asked his government for more specific news on the subject.

The suggestion is made here in well-informed quarters that in all probability Colombia has taken the initiative in this matter, and not Italy, as stated in

made on the beach and at a small wharf erected by the engineers.

"I had neither the time nor the men to spars to construct permanent wharves.

"In apite of the fact that I had nearly 1,000 men continuously at work on the made, they were at times impassable for wagons.

"The San Juan and Aguadores roads would often suddenly rise so as to prevent the phasage of wagons, and then the eight back trains with the command, had to be depended upon for the victualling of my army as well as the 20,000 refuges, who could not in the interests of humanity, be left to starve while we had rations.

"Often for days nothing could be moved except on pack trains.
"After the great physical strain and exposure of July 1 and 2, the malarial and other fevera begant to rapidly advance throughout the command, and on July 4 the yellow faver appeared at Siboney. Though efforts were made to keep this fact from the army, it soon became known.

"The supply of quartermaster and commissar's stores during the campaign was abundant and notwithstanding the difficulties in landing and transporting the rations, the troops on the firing lines were at all times supplied with its coarser components, namely, of bread, meat, sugar and coffee.

"There was no lack of transportation, for at no time up to the surrender could all the wagons I had be used.

"Siek and Womates!.

Sick and Wounded.

"In reference to the sick and wounded, I have to say that they received every attention that it was possible to give them. The medical officers without exception, worked night and day to alleviate the suffering which was no greater than invariably accompanies a campaign. It would have been better if we had more ambulances, but as many were taken as was thought necessary, judging from previous campaigns.

"The discipline of the command was superb, and I wish to, invite attention to the fact that not an officer was brought to trial by courtmartial, and as far as I know, no enlisted mén. This speaks volumes for an army of, this size and in a campaign of such direction. "In conclusion, I desire to express to the members of my staff my thanks for their efficient performance of all the duties required of them and the good judgment and bravery displayed on all occasions when demanded."

## MILES' LETTER

To General Nunez, of the Cuban fusurgent Forces Sears Tentimony to the World of their Aid-Cuban Proclama-tion of Annesty-Sorales Talks Sensi-

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.—Secretary Jonnales Quesada, of the Cuban delegation, to-day gave out several documents relating to Cuban affairs. They include a letter written by General Miles while in Porto Rico, to General Nunez, which Mr. Quesada regards as a tribute from the commanding general of the American army to the good service of General Garcia and the Cubans at Santiago. The letter is as follo

"PORT PONCE, Porto Rico, "August 17, 1898. "General Emello Nunez, Cuban Lega-

tion, Washington, D. C.: "My Dear General:-I have received

your very interesting letter of July 22 and am Slad to know that the expedition proved successful and that the necessities of General Gomes were relieved.

"I beg to tender my condolence on the loss of Your brother. "I congratulate you on the cessation

made on the beach and at a small wharf successful termination of the struggle of Your countrymen for their liberties.

'I met General Garcia very pleasant. ly, but was so much occupied that I did not have time to talk with him as Te wanted to do. After we had secured the surrender of the Spanish troops I immediately went away, as I was anxious to move on to Porto Rico as soon as Possible and was deeply engaged in moving the transports with troops to this place, I deeply regretted not seeing more of General Garcia as I wished to thank him again for the good service he' and those under his command had rendered. Please send him a copy of this at your first opportunity.

"Hoping to meet you personally again in the near future, I am "Yours very truly,

"NELSON A. MILES," Cuban Proclamation of Amnesty.

Mr. Quesada has received the followng proclamation of amnesty issued by Cuban authorities at Camaguay; The government council in to-day's

session ordered: "Whereas, Hostilities have been suspended and orders which hinder the movements of those charged with bringing about peace should not be enforced when the independence of Cuba has already been recognized by Spain and the United States.

"Whereas, In such circumstances it is useless to deprive the Spanish army of news, and guides which in some cases it may even be a duty to provide so i may evacuate the territory as screed upon with the United States,

"Whereas, The war being ended all animosity and hatred due to the struggle should cease, thus bringing about the union of all Cubans under our flag, which is the symbol of liberty and not of revenge. Whereas, The leaders of the army

should do all in their power to punish any attempt against personal security and that no private vengeance shall be visited upon those who have served Spain; be it

'Resolved, First-To suspend until further order paragraph 2 in its isst part and paragraphs 9, 10, 13, 14 and 15 of article 48 of the penal law.

Second-To grant amnesty to all those guilty of the crimes enumerated in article 48 of the penal law; and

"Third-That these resolutions be cir culated among the army and authorities of the republic, calling their attention to the evils which may occur if a policy of forgiveness and pardon is not

"Camaguay, September 1st, 1898. "The secretary of war pro tem.
"DR. DOMINGO MENDOZ CAPOTE."

Morales' Pointed Statement. Another proclamation received by Mr. Quesada was issued by Colonel Morales,

second in command of the Cubans in Havana province. It says: "A great and prosperous nation, our

sister in republican ideals, has come to the help of Cubs, as France gave her Senerous support to that democracy during its struggle for independence. Let us salute under our flag of the lone star the flag of the stars and stripes. and let us despise those reports circulated against all truth and reason by our conquered enemy that the great republic is trying to take possession shameof hostilities and the prospect of the lessly of our free and independent Cuba

## Let us continue and do not falter in these movements in which our star besoldiers of the army of liberation, for free and independent Caba and for the great American republic." Mr. Quesads sure the amnesty proc

ismation shows how rully the Cuban authorities accept the suspension of military operations and the proclama-tion of Captain Morales indicates that the Cuban commanders look forward to rediting Spanish reports of American designs for annexing Caba.

#### STICKING TOGETHER.

the Manifesto of the se-Called Provis-ional Government of Cale-Another

Amembly has Been Called. BANTIAGO DE CUBA, Sept 14.-The ouncil of the so-called provisional government of the Republic of Cuba, represented by Senor Bartolome Maso, president; Senor Mendes Capote, vice president, and Senor Port, Senor Aleman and Senor Moeno de la Torre, sec-retaries, met at Santa Cruz on Septem-

retaries, met at Santa Cruz on September I and formulated a manifesto to the Cuban people with an order to the military-commanders of the Cuban army, both of which have been promulgated.

The manifesto touches on the history of the movement for Cuban independence and the principles upon which the Cuban people have fought for their liberty.

of the movement for Caban independence and the principles upon which the Cuban people have found for their liberty.

After expressing gratitude to the United States for expelling Spain from this maniphere, the council proceeds:

"As we begin now our national life, we more than any other people, must be jealous of our national honor. It is, therefore, the duty of this council to explain to the people of Cuba what, in its opinion, are our duties toward the United States and toward ourselves and what are the rules that ought to direct our conduct.

"When after a long struggle, the United States Congress recognized the right of the people of Cuba to be free and independent and ordered the Spanish forces to withdraw from the island, no Cuban government, was recognized; but the one we had constituted, though not recognized, was not opposed and has not been opposed.

"These considerations have convinced in that we should not dissive and that the powers we have-seeved from an assembly elected by the people undertarry, we feel that we should remain as a nucleus and guide for those who have vested such power in as.

"We have, therefore, decided to call together another assembly which will determine our future course."

In conclusion, the manifesto sives a number of reasons why the proposed assembly should be convened and some government or another chose, "not with the character of a government as yet, but as an official repressitation of those Cubans who feel against Spain and or those who in the cities under Spanish control and its forsism countries have helped and supported them."

INSURGENTS EVACUATE.

# INSURGENTS EVACUATE

The Suburbs of Anni's Shouting "Long Live the Americans" —So Cineles Occur. MANILA, Sept. 14.-The Insurgents evacuated the suburbs of Manila towhich nearly 15,000 men took part, carrying rifles, colors waving, bands playing and shouting "Viva Americanos;" Viva Filipanos libres."

The merchants here expect heavy eses if a new tariff is enforced at an early date, because their present stock valued roughly at \$5,000,000, has paid the

## CORTES PROROGUED.

And with it Ended a Stormy Semion of the Senate-Spain's "Paluful" Impres-

MADRID, Sept. 14.-The premier, Senor Sagasta, has obtained the queen regent's signature to a decree proroguing the cortes, and with it ended a stormy ession of the senate.

session of the senate.

Gen. Primo de Rivera has demanded an inquiry into his administration of the Phillippine islands, and in doing so he said the attacks of Count Almenas were only "fit for the mouth of a miserable standerer."

said the attacks of Count Aimenas vero only "fit for the mouth of a miserable slanderer."

Count Aimenas was endeavoring to reply when Senor Sagasta read the de-cree proroguing the cortes.

Count Aimenas and Gen, Rivera sep-arately approuched the president in a hostile manner and a due is expected.

Premier Sagasta aftervards read the decree in the chamber of deputies. It is expected that the Spaniah peace com-missioners will be appointed without de-lay.

A painful impression has been caused A painful impression has been caneed here by a statement made by the Pais, saying the United States intends to demand \$20,000,000 indemnity in behaff of American citizens who have auffered through the insurrection in Cuba. The Spanish peace commissioners will strongly oppose this, it is dalmed, but fears prevail that the United States will become pitliess and press its advantage to the unwest. to the utmost.

PROTOCOL SIGNED By the Queen Regent-Why the Cortes

Was Prorogued. MADRID, Sept. 14.—The queen regent

igned the protocol bill this evening. The government had intended The government had intended the cortes to sit until an indemnity bill for the suspension of the constitutional guarantees had been passed, but the threatened actiation on the part of Gen. Weyfer and others, together with the evidence of divisions in both the Liberal and Constructive parties, convinced Senor Sagnata of the advisability of closing down debarsa, which would have hindered the free progress of the peace negotiations.

mindered the reg from regotiations.

The cortes will be next convoked to raiffy the final treaty of peace.

It is minored that Seour Perolo, Senor Creepo and Senor Lara members of the chamber of deputies, sarried for the French frontier late this evening.

Another West Virginian Dies.
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Sept. 14.—
Joseph H. Reed, Company C, Tweith
Pennsylvania, died this afternoon at the Medico-Chirurgical hospital. His home was at Terra Alta, Preston county, W. Va.

NEW YORK-Weimer, from Bremen NEW YORK-Spaarndam, Rotter sm. SOUTHAMPTON - Pennland, from

New York
NEW YORK—Arrived—Servia, Liverpool: Rhyrland: Southamptom; Georgic,
Liverpool: Trave, Bremen.
BOLLOGNE—Arrived—Werkendam,
New York.

# PLANS FOR PEACE. The Meeting of the Commissioners

with President McKinley. WERE EXCHANGED

But no Details Wees Given to the Public. A Rigid Reticence Observed by the Hem here of the Commission and Officials. There is Little Doubt, However, that the United States will Insist Upon the Retention of the Island of Luxon, with the Right to Decide the Pate of the Remain ing Islands of the Philippine Group,

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.-Three retary Day, Senator Davis and Whitelaw Reid, were in conference for two hours at the state department to-day. Senator Frye, it was stated, would ar rive to-morrow morning and join the conference of the commissioners. The plans of Senator Gray, the sixth member, are not exactly known, although he, too, is expected to join his associates

in their conferences to-morrow. The President will give a dinner at the white house to-morrow at which the commissioners will be the principal guests, all the members of the cabinet in the city also being present. It is stated positively that the dinner will be purely of a social character, and that the reports that it will serve the purpose of a full and final discussion of the Philippine question are unwarranted. The commissioners will leave here Friday in order to take the Campania

on Saturday. The meeting at Secretary Day's office to-day was for the purpose of going over the whole question of the peace settlement. It is the first time Mr. Reid. had exchanged views with his colleagues on the subject. The same rigid reticence which has thus far prevailed continues to be observed and as the commissioners came from their two hours' meeting they positively declined to discuss any questions relating to the commission. Leading members of the commission stated positively that all reports relative to the instruction of the symmissioners or the attitude of the United States were purely conjectural. It is pointed out that the interests of this country might be seriously prejudiced if its effect was made known in advance of the meeting at Paris, so the commissioners have agreed among themselves to authorise no statement of their views as a body or as individuals,

There is little doubt that a general line of policy was nereed upon between the President and his cabinet at their meeting late yesterday afternoon, but there is good reason for believing that the as sertion that the decision was definitely in favor of not permitting Spain unde any conditions to retain sovereignty in any part of the Philippine islands is based upon a misconception. As the members of the cabinet and members of the peace commission refuse absolutely to discuss the subject with newspaper men, and therefore whatever is said is based more or less on inference or roundabout information. It is not doubted that the commission will start the negotiations at Paris with the assertion that we have conquered Spain in the Philippines and that Spanish sovereignty has already been forfeited there.

This will not, however, necessarily signify that it is the purpose of the administration to retain possession of the entire group of islands or to permanently deprive Spain of all her possessions in the Pacific. It is not believed that the administration has gone be-youd the determination to retain the whole of the island of Luzon, but it is understood to be the intention of the President to establingh at the outset the right of this government to determine the fate of the islands and to nake their conditions under which i ernment shall be established there.

The matter of relinquishing posse of the islands is involved with so many, conditions to be considered that it is realized that it may by force of circumstances become necessary to deprive Spain permanently of all her possessions in that quarter. It is understood not to be a matter of policy to acquire all this territory, but it may become a necessity.

The commercial and trade side of the question as involving the development and expansion of our commerce in the Pacific is occupying chief attention in connection with determining our policy,

# CHARGES CONSPIRACY.

Sysum Resigns Chairmanship of Gold. Discoratio Party-Holman, of Maine, Wants Him Investigated.

CHICAGO, Sept. 14 .- W. D. Bynum, hairman of the National Democratic party, tendered his resignation to the xecutive committee to-day, and George Fuster Penbody, of New York, was elected as his successor. The resignation was a great surprise to the leaders of the Gold Democratic party.

C. Vey Holman, of Maine, declared after the meeting, that he proposed to have Mr. Bynum investigated, Mr. Holman claims Mr. Bynum called the meeting of to-day with the intent to force him to leave Maine, where the election was held on Monday, the morn-ing of election day, and he charges the ex-chairman with conspiracy. A com-mittee of which Mr. Peabody was made chairman, was appointed to prepare an address to the people.

Weather Personst for To-day

Weather Percent for Abelian.

For West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, and Ohlo, showers; slowly rising temperature; fresh southerly winds.

Local Temperature.

The temperature yesterday as observed by C. Schepf, drugrist, corner Fourteent and Market streets, was as follows:

# DIRE DESTRUCTION AND DEATH

One of the Most Disastrous Tidal Wave Storms in History Visits the Barbadoes.

HUNDREDS KILLED, AND THOUSANDS HOMELESS

ST. THOMAS, Danish West Indies, Sept. 14,-According to the latest reports from St. Lucia the storm which broke upon the island Sunday night developed almost unprecedented violence, being accompanied by a tidal wave and tremendous rains. Numerous landslides were caused and many houses, bridges and cocoa estates have been destroyed. At least twelve lives have been lost, Quadaloupe, the French island in the Leeward group, has experienced very

heavy weather. Nineteen deaths are reported and there have been destructive A boat from the laland of St. Vincent, a hundred miles west of Barbadoes, arrived to-day at the Island of Grenada and reports that St. Vincent has experienced the most violent and destructive cyclone ever known there. Kings-

ton, the capital of St, Vincent, is totally destroyed.

It is estimated that three hundred lives have been lost in that island and that twenty thousand people are homeless. The bodies of the dead are being buried in trenches. Thousands are starving or being fed at the public expense. The amount of Property destroyed in St. Vincent cannot yet be estimated Every small house is down and many large ones have been destroyed. lished buildings include churches, stores and almost all the state buildings. Three large ships are ashore on the Windward coast and many smaller

No information is obtainable here as to the results of the threatened hurricane of Saturday night last. Communication is out off and the worst is feared.